



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAA) Environment and Natural Resources Committee Minutes Thursday, September 1, 2016

Offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAA)
Lake County Conference Room
Suite 800, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois

Members Present: Martha Dooley – Village of Schaumburg (via phone), Jackie Forbes – Kane County Division of Transportation, Danielle Gallet – Metropolitan Planning Council, Jon Grosshans and Keary Cragan – U.S. EPA, David Leopold – UI Labs, Stacy Meyers – Openlands (via phone), Joe Schuessler – MWRD, Steve Simmens (for Jack Darin) – Illinois Sierra Club, Deb Stone – Cook County Department of Environmental Control, Kim Wasserman-Nieto – Little Village Environmental Justice Organization, Mike Warner – Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, Sean Wiedel – Chicago Department of Transportation, Moira Zellner – University of Illinois-Chicago

Members Absent: Lynn Boerman – IDNR, Ed Collins – McHenry County Conservation District, Pete Harmet – IDOT, Suzanne Malec-McKenna – Chicago Wilderness

Staff Present: Nora Beck (staff liaison for ENR), Anthony Cefali, Brian Daly, Patrick Day, Kristin Ihnchak, Maggie Jarr Jason Navota, Elizabeth Oo, Jake Seid,

Others Present: Dan Feltes – MWRD, Ann Gray – MWRD, Mike Klemens – Will County Governmental League

1.0 Call to Order

Sean Wiedel called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 a.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

3.0 Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 4 meeting was made by Jackie Forbes, seconded by Moira Zellner. The motion carried with all in favor.

4.0 ON TO 2050: Emerging Priorities – Kristin Ihnchak, CMAP Staff

CMAP has been gathering public feedback on regional challenges and opportunities as well as priority topics that should be addressed by the ON TO 2050 plan. To summarize that feedback and give insight on preliminary plan directions, CMAP staff created a report on emerging priorities and solicited public comment over the summer months. The document is now undergoing final working committee review prior to Board and MPO Policy Committee approval in October. Using a [powerpoint presentation](#), Kristin summarized the [Emerging Priorities for ON TO 2050 draft report](#) and the public comments received. Committee members discussed the following points:

- **Flooding.** Recognition of flooding as an issue regardless of climate change given increasing development and issues. CMAP has found flooding as a key way to talk about global climate change within the region, that is can be more relatable entry point to the discussion. Recommendation to include improved maintenance of existing infrastructure as a critical aspect of addressing flooding; it's often overlooked but plays an essential role. For example, MWRD's Inflow and Infiltration program is addressing a critical maintenance need that helps maintain the capacity of the existing infrastructure.
- **Biking and pedestrian.** Should also look at the safety of the existing facilities and the vision zero goal. The City of Chicago will releasing a report on this this fall.
- **Collaboration and capacity.** Stressed the importance and opportunity of government consolidation throughout other governmental units, not just municipalities. Current efforts are underway among the [Round Lake communities](#) and recent legislation will allow for the consolidation of paper governments in Lake and McHenry County. Recommendation to include private sector in this discussion as there are opportunities. CMAP staff asked David Leopold for assistance in engaging this sector.
- **Freight movement.** The environmental impacts of freight movement need to be considered. The [National Environmental Justice Advisory Council](#) has recently released a [review](#) of air quality impacts and the [Moving Forward Network](#) is working on air quality issues associated with freight movement. Other regions or specific cities with ports – like Long Beach and Newark – are innovating to address this issue and incorporating new technologies within the intermodal system. The US EPA needs to get involved with diesel. Community Benefit Agreements are not working. In addition, freight's utilization of the waterways should also be an area of focus.
 - CMAP's [Work Plan](#) in the coming year includes Freight Plan and Policy Development and CMAP staff will be producing two memos pertaining to this issue: Environmental Justice Strategies in the Freight Plan and Freight Plan Supportive land use preservation and conflict mitigation strategies. In addition, other work relating to truck routing policy and statutory strategies and analysis of concentrated freight land use and transportation corridors will be occurring. CMAP also has a [Freight Taskforce](#).
- **Changes based on public input.** Given the broad nature of GO TO 2040, the public comments really helped reframe and prioritize what had been in the last plan and the specific new policy areas currently under review. CMAP received a lot of comments stressing the importance of improving walking, cycling, and taking transit in the suburbs. CMAP anticipated receiving a lot of comments about

flooding, but the response was greater than our expectations. And CMAP received a lot of comments about the segregation and equity issues facing the region, which reinforced our efforts to include this in a substantial way in the next plan.

- Figure 1 on page 2, items could be italicized or treated differently for ease of navigation.
- **Unified water resources.** Water resources, green infrastructure, and stormwater are all policy areas CMAP is working on; continued encouragement to think about these in a unified way.

5.0 ON TO 2050: Local Food Trends Snapshot – Brian Daly, CMAP Staff

As part of ON TO 2050 development, CMAP is preparing a Local Food Snapshot, which will provide an overview of trends in food production, the number and characteristics of farms, the value of agricultural products sold in the region, and recent and ongoing activities in the local food policy area. Using a [powerpoint presentation](#), Brian presented the [scope of work](#) from the analysis. Committee members discussed the following points:

- **Preliminary data on agricultural farms.** Brian will check to see if the value of products includes value-added products, or those that have been processed.
- **Biosolids.** MWRD and Growing Power are working together and using biosolids.
- **Biofuel production.** While the snapshot is focused on local food for human consumption, CMAP will see if we can give some overall context of agricultural production including biofuels.
- **Leases on Forest Preserves.** These acres are unlikely to show up in the Agricultural Census, but many of the Forest Preserve Districts are thinking of transitioning their farming leases away from commodity crop production and into more sustainable practices and local food production.
- **Agricultural conversion.** Connection to information we know about agricultural conversion through the Lands in Transition strategy paper. Those numbers reflect all types of agricultural production and don't make a distinction of local food.
- **Include food access.** Many committee members recommended the continued inclusion of food access in the snapshot. They identified that even if CMAP doesn't have a clear role, the information can be useful in raising awareness and help municipalities implement strategies that reduce barriers. It can also provide a benchmark for reference in the future when there may be a clearer implementation path.
- **Community gardens.** Could include this data as an indicator, could be treated in a similar way to park and open space access. In building growing facilities will likely be harder to track.

6.0 Implementing the Watershed Management Ordinance – Dan Feltes, MWRD

The Watershed Management Ordinance (WMO) establishes stormwater management regulations throughout Cook County, including drainage and detention, volume control, floodplain management, isolated wetland protection, riparian environment protection, and soil erosion and sediment control. The ordinance became effective on May 1, 2014. Using a [powerpoint presentation](#), Dan Feltes provided a brief background on the WMO, how volume control is quantified and credited, examples of volume control, runoff requirements, WMO results and the amount of volume control, and draft amendments being released for public comment soon. Dan explained the objective of the WMO and how green infrastructure is referred to as volume control in the ordinance. The runoff

requirements in the WMO require review of the upstream drainage area. So not just what is happening on the parcel, but also what is coming to the area. These flows need to be defined. Dan presented the amount of water captured via volume control in relation to compensatory storage, required detention, and the amount retained through the Thornton Reservoir. Dan reviewed suggested ordinance changes, with a particular focus on the Foundation / Earthwork Only Permit and Volume Control trading. Committee members discussed the following points:

- **Types of plantings.** The WMO requires deep-rooted, wetland tolerant plants, but it is up to the local municipality to decide a species mix.
- **Coordination with Forest Preserve District.** MWRD has outlined a clear process for projects that may impact forest preserve lands.
- **Foundation / Earthwork only permit.** Currently, MWRD requires all permits be obtained before any construction and this process typically takes 180 days. The proposal here is to issue a short permit for foundation work to allow winter construction. Any work in sensitive areas – floodplain, riparian areas, wetlands – wouldn't be allowed under this permit. In addition, much of development within Cook County a redevelopment projects. The Foundation / Earthwork only permit would clearly state the developer is at their own risk and only lasts for a limited time. MWRD is hoping this process allows them to be involved earlier in the process. The erosion control provisions of the WMO would be a dominant part of this permit. Committee members expressed concern that the full review of environmentally sensitive features wouldn't occur until after earthwork had been done. For example, isolated wetlands need to be delineated on the property in order to insure adequate consideration; the review conducted at this preliminary stage could be inadequate. In addition, the foundation layout might preclude more effective volume control designs.
- **Isolated wetlands and single family homes.** Committee members expressed concern with a proposed amendment that would exempt single family home construction from delineating isolated wetlands.
- **Volume Control Trading.** The goal of this proposal is to capture the volume control where it is not reasonable to locate on the site. For example a brownfield or another type of significant site constraint where infiltration is not advisable given potential impacts on groundwater. The proposal would require the volume control to be located in the subwatershed and in place before development. The WMO already allows detention trading. Committee members supported this concept for brownfield sites, but expressed concern that it would apply to additional sites where the array of volume control techniques are still appropriate and reasonable.
- **Indirect impacts to watersheds.** Lake County measures indirect impacts to wetlands and has studies this over time. The WMO uses similar measures.
- **Maintenance.** The WMO permit is issued to the municipality and the developer and encumbers the project with a maintenance plan. MWRD relies on the municipality to ensure proper maintenance. Discussion about how this could work with the volume control trading.
- **Development thresholds.** Development and redevelopment over 0.5 acres. Disturbance of wetland, riparian, floodplain, and sanitary service even if less than 0.5 acres but not if a single family homes. There are other triggers including impacts on outfalls, direct connections to MWRD facilities. MWRD follows the

WMO on their own property. If the project is regular maintenance, a WMO is not typically required and MWRD wants to support maintenance of existing facilities.

- **Other MWRD projects.** MWRD and the Illinois State Water Survey are working on developing watershed specific release rates for two pilot watersheds with the goal of generating these for the entire service area. MWRD will also be launching an online GIS system of permit locations.

7.0 Other Business.

None

8.0 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

9.0 Next Meeting

The ENR Committee is scheduled to next meet on Thursday, October 6, 2016.

10.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nora Beck (ENR Committee Liaison)
September 1, 2016